

**RIVERS MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR STREAM GAGING IN NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**To the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Services  
December 20, 2005**

WHEREAS, stream gaging provides water monitoring data that is essential for understanding and managing New Hampshire's water resources; and

WHEREAS, public funding for stream gaging in New Hampshire has declined during fiscal years 2004 and 2005 to the point where collection of stream gaging data no longer meets New Hampshire's needs for effective, data-driven water resources management decisions; and

WHEREAS, there are ever-increasing demands on those water resources for multiple uses, both in-waterbody and off; and

WHEREAS, the Rivers Management Advisory Committee (the Committee) is charged under RSA 483:1 and RSA 483:8,V to advise the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Services (DES) on implementation of the state's policy to ensure the continued viability of New Hampshire rivers as valued economic and social assets for the benefit of present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, protection of instream flows is an important element of the Rivers Management and Protection Program under RSA 483:1, RSA 483:2, and RSA 483:9-c, and effective instream flow protection requires stream gaging; and

WHEREAS the effective implementation of this policy requires strategic investment in collection and management of water resource data, especially stream gaging data; and

WHEREAS the Committee has prepared and fully considered *A Strategy for Stream Gaging in New Hampshire*, which is attached hereto.

NOW THEREFORE

The Committee hereby adopts *A Strategy for Stream Gaging in New Hampshire* as a recommended basis for planning and implementation of a long-term stream gaging network for New Hampshire.

The Committee hereby transmits the *Strategy* to the Commissioner for his consideration under the provisions of RSA 483:8, V.

The Committee recommends that the Commissioner convene a task force on New Hampshire stream gaging, to be comprised, at a minimum, of representatives from DES, the Committee, the US Geological Survey, the University of New Hampshire, Plymouth State University, the Lakes Management Advisory Committee, and the legislature. The task force would work in consultation with the legislative Water Resources Study Committee as established by SB162 (2003 Session). The purpose of the task force would be to consider and enhance the *Strategy*,

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and then prepare an action plan for a New Hampshire Stream Gage Network, with recommended funding and administration mechanisms.

We, the undersigned voting members, do hereby request the Commissioner's assistance with the establishment of the task force.

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Kenneth D. Kimball, Ph.D., Chair  
Recreational Interests  
Gorham, NH

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Walter A. Morse  
Fish & Game Commission  
Hillsborough, NH

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Michele Tremblay, Vice Chair  
Conservation Community  
Boscawen, NH

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Allan Palmer  
Business & Industry Assn.  
Manchester, NH

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Robert G. Beaurivage  
Public Water Works  
Manchester, NH

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James C. Robertson  
Agricultural Community  
Contoocook, NH

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Deborah Hinman  
NH Assn. of Conservation Commissions  
Acworth, NH

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Wesley R. Stinson  
Historical & Archeological Interests  
Concord, NH

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VACANT

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George Lagassa  
Granite State Hydropower Assn.  
North Hampton, NH

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Thomas W. Sutton, Jr.  
Municipal Official  
Lincoln, NH

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The Rivers Management Advisory Committee also consists of the following non-voting members who were active participants in the development of: *Recommendations for Stream Gaging in New Hampshire* and the *Strategy for Stream Gaging in New Hampshire*.

Ben Frost  
Office of Energy and Planning  
Concord, NH

Johanna Lyons  
NH Dept. of Resources and Economic Dev.  
Concord, NH

Bill Ingham  
NH Fish and Game Department  
Concord, NH

Gail McWilliam Jellie  
NH Dept. of Agriculture, Markets, and Food  
Concord, NH

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